

Personett House
Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-496

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7-CEGRO
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, M.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Personett House
Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey

Owner: Norman Thatcher

Date of Erection: About 1782

Architect:

Builder: George Personett

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brownstone

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

This is probably the oldest house standing in this section. It was built by George Personett around 1782 and remained in the Personett family until it was sold in 1889 to Sophia A. Thatcher wife of John J. Thatcher; the present owner is her heir.

The information as to the builder is based upon material given by the descendants of George Personett. The records in Essex County do not go back far enough in this case to definitely prove this, but there is on record

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a deed showing that George Personett owned land in this locality. This is mentioned in a transfer of George Brinkerhoff to Joseph Personett; the tract upon which the house of the survey stands is spoken of as adjoining the land of Joseph Personett; a map of 1787 is also mentioned.

Bibliography:

A search of Essex County court records
by Frank P. Caufield, Essex County Office

Information from Mrs. Jennie Taylor direct
descendant of the builder

Mildred Ratt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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M E M O R A N D U M

February 8, 1939

TO: MR. HERBERT N. MOFFETT, State Supervisor
FROM: WALTER E. RUTT, Field Supervisor

The history to NJ-496 which has been shipped to Washington is titled Parsonett and the drawings have been titled Personette. I checked the spelling of the family name in the deeds and find that there is little justification for spelling the name Parsonett and not a great deal more for spelling it Personette. The entries always spelled it Personett and occasionally this appears in the deed with the added "e". We have changed our institute copy from Parsonett to Personett and believe that you should advise the Library of Congress to make similar changes. It would be no great mistake if the drawings went down with the added "e" since there is some justification for the use.

WER:AN